

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: January 26, 2007

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and
Activities Ending on January 19, 2007

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Removal Completion, Northwestern Plating Works Site,
Chicago, Illinois**

On January 4, 2007, the removal action at the Northwestern Plating Works site, Chicago, Illinois, was completed with a final walk-through of the site. Small issues that were addressed during the walk-through included securing the back door, filling sample boreholes in the concrete floor, removing compressed cylinders, and removing miscellaneous debris generated by the cleanup. Sample results of floors, walls, and soil beneath the concrete revealed elevated levels of cyanide, and heavy metals. The On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) is working with the Region 5 Office of Regional Council to implement deed restrictions on future use of the property. Disposition of wastes from the site included 17,000 gallons of cyanide liquids, 148 drums of cyanide solids, 120 cubic yards of hazardous debris, 3000 gallons of hydrochloric acid, 55 gallons of hydrofluoric acid, and 200 gallons of nitric acid.

Contact: James Mitchell (312-353-9537)

Site Deletion (National Priorities List), Avenue "E" Ground Water Contamination Superfund Site, Traverse City, Michigan

On January 19, 2007, a Notice of Intent and a Direct Final Notice of Deletion from the National Priorities List (NPL) was published in the Federal Register and posted in the Federal Docket

Management System (FDMS) for the Avenue "E" Ground Water Contamination Superfund site in Traverse City, Michigan.

The Avenue "E" Ground Water Contamination Superfund site included the United States Coast Guard Search and Rescue Station and the surrounding area where the groundwater contamination plume migrated. As part of the cleanup, residences in the area on private wells were connected to a public water supply system. The Coast Guard installed and operated a pump and treat system to clean up the groundwater. All contaminants of concern have reached cleanup requirements and the system is no longer in operation.

A Five Year Review was completed in September 2005. The Five Year Review found that the remedy at the site remained protective of human health and the environment and could be deleted from the NPL.

Contacts: Linda Martin (312-886-3854)
Gladys Beard (312-886-7253)

Closing Ceremony, Feed Materials Production Center (USDOE) Superfund Site, Fernald, Ohio

On January 19, 2007, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) held a closing ceremony for the Feed Materials Production Center (USDOE) Superfund site in Fernald, Ohio. Administrator Stephen Johnson attended, as well as the Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman and Senator George Voinovich. The ceremony celebrated the completion of the 15-year cleanup of this 1050 acre Superfund site, located 20 miles northwest of Cincinnati, Ohio. Closure of this complex site included shipping millions of tons of waste off-site for disposal, demolition of 300 buildings and structures, construction of an eight cell 80-acre onsite disposal facility, and pumping and treating millions of gallons of groundwater. The total remediation cost for this cleanup was 4.4 billion dollars. The former weapons

complex has been converted to an undeveloped park, which includes one of the largest man-made wetlands in Ohio, trails, nature observatories, and an education museum to document past cold war activities, as well as serve as an environmental education facility.

Contact: James Saric (312-886-0992)

Site Assessment, Plating Engineering Site, West Allis, Wisconsin

On January 17, 2007, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Jaime Brown and Craig Thomas of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5, along with U.S. EPA contractors, conducted a removal assessment at the Plating Engineering Facility Site located in West Allis, Wisconsin. The purpose of the assessment, which was requested by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), was to determine if a removal action was warranted at the site. Dozens of vats of copper cyanide, nickel sulfamate, and chromic acid were observed, ranging in size from approximately 80 to 2,000 gallons. Dozens of 55-gallon drums of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, and sodium hydroxide were identified. Hundreds of lab-pack containers, several of which were leaking, were also discovered. Also, recent signs of trespassing were observed. The findings of the assessment will be prepared by U.S. EPA in the near future and a copy will be provided to WDNR.

Contact: Craig Thomas (312-886-5907)

Site Assessment, South Bend Loathe, South Bend, Indiana

On January 18, 2007, at the request of the City of South Bend a site assessment was conducted at the South Bend Lathe site in South Bend, Indiana. South Bend Lathe was originally a small part of the former Studebaker complex. The site comprises approximately 300,000 square feet. South Bend Lathe made Metal Turning Lathes for the Military and Industry. The site contains 10 to 20 55-gallon drums, 100 small containers, 5 to 7 underground storage tanks ranging in size up to 20,000 gallons, 4 large transformers located in vaults beneath floor level, and various locations of friable asbestos lying on the floor. Samples were taken from all the mentioned locations. After sample

results are received, a decision is expected on what course of action will be taken by U.S. EPA.

Contacts: Ken Theisen (312-886-1959)
Theresa Holz (312-886-6845)

cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)
Scott Sherman (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OSWER)
Ed Chu (OSWER)
David Lopez (OSRTI)
Ernie Watkins (OSRTI)
Susan Bromm (OECA)
Phyllis Harris (OECA)
Barnes Johnson (OSRTI)
Dana Tulis (OEM)
Elizabeth Southerland (OSRTI)
Larry Zaragoza (OSRTI)
Debbie Dietrich (OEM)
Dana Tulis (OEM)
Craig Beasley (OEM)
Jim Woolford (FFRRO)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers